

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:
 - 5 attaching to the neck of the dog a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.
 - 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said light source comprises at least one light emitting diode.
 - 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said light source comprises three laterally spaced light emitting diodes, the two outboard diodes oriented to direct light forwardly past opposite sides of the dog's snout, and the central diode oriented to direct light forwardly and downwardly when attached to the dog's neck.
 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 10 feet in front of the dog.
 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 20 feet in front of the dog.
 - 20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said light source is a white light emitting diode.
 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said light source emits a light beam that has a width of at least about 5 feet at a distance of about 10 feet in front of said dog.
 - 25 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said housing is attached to the neck of said dog by an adjustable elastic band attached to said housing.
 9. The method of claim 7 wherein said band is located below a collar on said dog.
 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said housing is attached to the neck of said dog by a band from which said housing is suspended, so that said light source is 30 located substantially below the snout of said dog.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said housing is attached to said band in a manner that inhibits swinging movement of said housing.

12. The method of claim 1 which includes a band surrounding the neck of the dog, a connector having an upper end configured to fit over said band and a lower end forming a hinged connection to said housing.

13. The method of claim 1 which includes a hair guard extending around at least a portion of said housing to prevent the hair of said dog from blocking said light source.

14. A dog flashlight for illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, and

15 an attachment device including a band for carrying said housing and adapted to surround the neck of the dog so that said housing is located in front of the chest of the dog,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

15. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source comprises at least one light emitting diode.

16. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source comprises three laterally spaced light emitting diodes, the two outboard diodes oriented to direct light forwardly past opposite sides of the dog's snout, and the central diode oriented to direct light forwardly and downwardly.

17. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 10 feet in front of the dog.

18. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 20 feet in front of the dog.

19. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source is a white light emitting diode.

20. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source emits a light beam that has a width of at least about 5 feet at a distance of about 10 feet in front of said
5 dog.

21. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said housing is attached to the neck of said dog by an adjustable elastic band attached to said housing.

22. The dog flashlight of claim 21 wherein said band is located below a collar on said dog.

10 23. The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said housing is attached to the neck of said dog by a band from which said housing is suspended, so that said light source is located substantially below the snout of said dog.

24. The dog flashlight of claim 23 wherein said housing is attached to said band in a manner that inhibits swinging movement of said housing.

15 25. The dog flashlight of claim 14 which includes a band surrounding the neck of the dog, a connector having an upper end configured to fit over said band and a lower end forming a hinged connection to said housing.

20 26. The dog flashlight of claim 14 which includes a hair guard extending around at least a portion of said housing to prevent the hair of said dog from blocking said light source.